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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hirohiko Hirochika et al.  
Application No. : 09/721,114 Confirmation No. : 2997  
Orig. Filing Date : November 22, 2000  
RCE Filing Date : December 12, 2002  
For : NOVEL GENE INVOLVED IN BRASSINOSTEROID RESPONSES  
Group Art Unit : 1634  
Examiner : Juliet C. Einsmann

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DEC 18 2002  
TECH CENTER 1600/2000

New York, New York 10020  
December 12, 2002

Box RCE  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified RCE patent application, applicants respectfully request consideration of this case in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Applicants file an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith.

Kindly amend the application as follows: